C. L. C. Library

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1118

Monday, *the* *8th February 1943* / *26th Makaram 1118*

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (A. F. W. DIXON Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,) in the Chair.

Messrs. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, M. K. Devassy and L. M. Pylee were absent.

Swearing in

The following members were sworn in.—

1. Mr. M. M. Paul
2. Mrs. K. Joshua
3. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan
4. Mr. M. Krishna Menon
5. Mr. K. Narayana Menon
6. Mr. Ephraim Joseph
7. Mr. K. Kunjirama Menon
8. Mr. K. T. Achyuthan
9. Mr. P. P. Devassy
10. Mr. Kunjipalu Thoman Alapad

Welcome Speech by President

I would like to take this opportunity of extending a hearty welcome to the many new members taking their seats for the first time today. I will also take this opportunity of offering a few remarks on the food situation.

The all India rice position, so far as is known, is not very unsatisfactory, but the problem of the equitable distribution of available supplies has not, as yet, been fully solved. If the principle of equality of sacrifice in the matter of food in war time, which is generally accepted in theory, were fully carried out in practice, Travancore and Cochin would be in a far better position than they are today. As it is, despite all the efforts made, hopes raised and even promises received, we have not yet succeeded in securing actual imports of stocks into the two States from other parts of India in nearly sufficient quantities, to bring our position up to the all India average level of comparatively slight deficiency in rice. The difficulties have been immense. Madras unexpectedly was unable to supply nearly as much rice as was at first anticipated, and much of the rice promised from other Provinces failed to arrive for causes quite beyond our control. Despite all possible efforts, the amount actually received into the two States since Madras placed an embargo on exports on July 1st 1942 has been far below our minimum requirements.

I am attending another Food Conference in New Delhi shortly as joint representative of the two States, and will, I can assure the Hon'ble Members, again do all in my power to achieve the object in view, which is to secure for these States in actual receipts a fair and equitable share of all India food crops, to make up for our grave deficiency due to the loss of Burma. I used the words food crops and not rice crop, because, while I believe that it should be possible by equitable distribution throughout India to meet our reasonable requirements in rice, yet, should this prove really impossible, our people would have to be prepared to accept, in addition to whatever rice could be spared, dry grains to make up the deficiency. We would modify our diet accordingly, for, we must be and we shall be fed.

So far as the present situation is concerned, as Hon'ble Members are aware, unexpected delays and disappointments in the receipts of quotas resulted in a position arising, which demanded drastic action. Accordingly, arrangements have been made to purchase locally grown paddy crops, leaving with the cultivators only what they require for their own needs up to the next harvest and also to ration those without paddy crops throughout the State. Grain purchase is proceeding steadily and rationing has already been introduced in Ernakulam, Mattancheri and Trichur town, and in Cochin-Kanayannur taluk. The ration is necessarily austere, and it will not be possible to increase it unless the stock position improves considerably. Government will strain every nerve to improve that position. Cultivators on their part can help by coming forward willingly and selling to Government promptly every grain of paddy not essential for their own needs, and by endeavouring to grow as much food as possible.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

So far as rationing is concerned, this Government are, I believe, the first in India to introduce country-wide rationing of the staple food grain. I hope the people will co-operate in the scheme honestly and fully, and show that in this as in other matters, Cochin can show the way. Hon'ble Members can play a notable part in the successful working of the grain purchasing and rationing schemes, and Government appeal to them to help by rendering all possible assistance and co-operation to the State officials, and by advising the people in their constituencies regarding the scope of the schemes and how they can assist making them a success.

I wish to pay a tribute to the Travancore Government and in particular to the Travancore Diwan for the ready co-operation they have always given in tackling the food problem and particularly of late for their help in arranging for the import of tapioca into the State. The Madras Government also have been most sympathetic and have, with their tradition of close connection with the Madras States, come to our aid again and again. Though the quotas imported from outside have not been sufficient for our needs, I have to acknowledge that Madras, itself a deficit area, has done what it could, by supplying by far the greater part of what has been received, undertaking even to supply immediately a quota which Bengal was unable to send in time due to difficult conditions there. With the help already promised by the Government of India, every effort has been, is, and will be made to secure supplies from other rice-growing provinces, and some success has already been achieved. I can assure Hon'ble Members that the Government of India are alive to our difficulties and sympathise with them. They have had their own difficulties, but I have good hopes that they will soon be overcome and that the Central Government will find it possible to render us more effective aid.

The position now is that we have done all we could to help ourselves within the State. We have taken all possible steps to increase cultivation, we are purchasing the crop and adopting an austere ration. We can therefore with added force again present our just demand for a fair and equitable share of all India food crops, which, if conceded, will relieve the distress due to rice scarcity so patiently borne by our people. We press our just demand also on the ground that these two States constitute a vitally important element in the defence of India, not only because they possess a fine harbour and a coast line stretching for nearly 200 miles, but because they are producing so many of the commodities required and so much of the man power engaged in connection with India's war effort.

We in these States are not down-hearted; we look forward with confidence to an early victory for the United Nations and are anxious to play an increasing part in hastening that end. We are not squealers. We realise that we have to expect to undergo hardships in war time. We only ask that there should be in India in war time, so far as is possible, equality of sacrifice in this vital matter of food, and that one corner of India, which depended so largely on Burma for its supplies, should not on account of Japanese aggression there have to suffer disproportionately.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DEPRESSED CLASSES—BOOKS—SUPPLY OF

61. പി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻ: താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെണ്ടു സദയം മറുപടി പറയുമോ.—

അധഃകൃതകുട്ടികൾക്കുള്ള ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തെ ബുക്കു സപ്ലൈ വിഷയത്തിൽ കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർ മോശം സാധനങ്ങൾ കൊടുത്തതിനെപ്പറ്റി വല്ല നടപടിയും ഗവൺമെണ്ടു കൈക്കൊണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: അധഃകൃതകുട്ടികൾക്കുള്ള ഇക്കൊല്ലത്തെ ബുക്കു സപ്ലൈ മോശമാണെന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനു തോന്നീട്ടില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ കൺട്രാക്ടരുടെ പേരിൽ യാതൊരു നടപടിയും എടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നിട്ടില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻ: അവർക്കു സപ്ലൈ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള വേറെ വല്ല സാധനങ്ങളും മോശമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനറിയാമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ: ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർതന്നെ വും സപ്ലൈ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഒരു കെട്ടിലുള്ളതു മുഴുവൻ മറിഞ്ഞിരുന്നതു് എന്നെ കാണിച്ചതരുകയും അതു മാറി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly